

RECEIVED

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

2012 JAN 19 P 3:36

In the Matter of:

MT. STERLING, WI 54645
Post Office State ZIP Code

: POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
: Docket No: A 2012-189

JUDITH E. HANSEN, Petitioner(s) :

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the MT STERLING post office. The Final Determination was posted 10-27-11.
(date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

THE POST OFFICE HAS REMAINED THE ONLY "CONSTANT" AND DEPENDABLE ORGANIZATION IN MANY COMMUNITIES. USPS CREATED A NETWORK, NATIONWIDE, OF "NATIONAL TREASURES" (aka Post Offices) AND NOW SEEMS BENT ON DESTROYING THEM. IT IS SO UNFAIR: ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS STRICTLY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS UNDERMINING TITLE 39, SECTION 404 (B) (A thru E) WHICH MANDATES NO CLOSURE FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN GOOD FAITH.

USPS METHOD TO DETERMINE WORKLOAD HOURS SEEMS SERIOUSLY FLAWED.

Participant Statement

IN FACT, USPS DIMINISHED OFFICE HOURS A FEW YEARS AGO DISENFRANCHISING THE MAJORITY OF EMPLOYED FAMILIES WHO WERE THEN COMPELLED TO PUT UP RURAL MAILBOXES FOR DELIVERY FROM ANOTHER OFFICE JUST SO THEY COULD COLLECT THEIR DAILY MAIL. THEY HAVE MANIPULATED THE OIC POSITION BY NOT PROMOTING THEIR EMPLOYEE TO POSTMASTER POSITION (AT A GREAT \$\$ SAVINGS) FOR 4 YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO BE ON THE BOOKS AS A PMR A FEW DAYS AND THEN REINSTATED IN THE SYSTEM BACK TO OIC. SHE HAS A TOTAL OF 10 YEARS WITH THE POSTAL SERVICE. HER SALARY, WE BELIEVE, IS MISREPRESENTED IN USPS STATEMENT AND SHE RECEIVES NO BENEFITS: NO PAID SICKLEAVE OR VACATION AND NO INSURANCE. SHE IS LOYAL, COMPETENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DESERVES MORE THAN THE \$12.84 PER HOUR. WITH LA CROSSE AS PROCESSING CENTER, THEY CANCEL AND SORT WHICH HAS MEANT LESS WORKLOAD LOCALLY. IT SEEMS THE WORKLOAD HAS BEEN MANIPULATED DOWNWARD DELIBERATELY SO AS TO USE IT AS A REASON FOR CLOSURE.

RENTAL/LEASE AGREEMENTS ARE NOT NEGOTIATED WITH CUSTOMER INPUT AND IT SEEMS IRRESPONSIBLE TO USE RENTS AS A PART OF THE FINANCIAL SAVINGS. THE USPS LEASE DEPARTMENT PAYS \$410.00 PER MONTH FOR AN APPROXIMATE 28 FOOT SQUARE ROOM WHICH SEEMS EXHOBITANT FOR THIS AREA. WE FEEL WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THE COST ANALYSIS PROCESS.

WE ARE REFERRED TO AS AN "UNINCORPORATED VILLAGE" WHEN, IN FACT, WE HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED SINCE OCTOBER 1, 1936. WE HAVE A VILLAGE PRESIDENT, A BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CLERK, TREASURER AND WATTER DEPT SUPERVISOR.

OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT DOES NOT COME FROM PRAIRIE DU CHIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT, AS THEY STATED, BUT FROM CRAWFORD COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT AND IT'S DEPUTIES.

THE INCONVENIENCE CREATED BY PUTTING RESIDENTS ON RURAL DELIVERY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT WOULD BE A PURE HARDSHIP FOR OUR ELDERLY TO EXPECT THEM TO DO THEIR POSTAL BUSINESS AT AN OFFICE 5 MILES AWAY. ALTHOUGH USPS PRESENTATION TRIED TO ASSURE US THE SERVICES WOULD BE EQUAL, WE REMAIN UNCONVINCED. THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN BEING SERVED BY A 6½ HOUR PER DAY OFFICE (WITH LOBBY OPEN DURING NOON) AND A ONE TIME STOP AT A STREET MAILBOX. AT BEST, DUE TO WINTER'S UNPREDICTABLE CONDITIONS PLUS THE TERRAIN OF WIS. HILLS AND ROADS, RURAL DELIVERY CAN BE A POOR SUBSTITUTE.

THE MAIN CONTRADICTION WE SEE IS THAT USPS PLAN TO CLOSE MT. STERLING OFFICE IS SOLELY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. THE POSTAL SERVICE IS MINIMIZING IT'S OWN USEFULNESS AND IMPORTANCE TO THE PUBLIC.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY

JUDITH E. HANSEN, ON BEHALF OF
CUSTOMERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE
MT. STERLING POST OFFICE ...

NOW IN OUR 161st YEAR